GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4544
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
PATENTS OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINES
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 2500 patents have been granted all over the world which have been illegally derived from traditional medicine formulas of India;

(b) if so, the action taken so far by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether Union Government propose to take the assistance of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) to get these patents cancelled; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a) to (d) The Government is aware of patents granted on the medicinal use of our plants. A Traditional Knowledge Digital Library is being established to cover 35,000 formulations which will help prevent patents on these medicinal uses.